Johannes Friedrich, translated by Frank Gaynor, *Extinct Languages*. New York, Philosophical Library, 1957. Pp. x, 192. $5.00.

The present volume has a definite place in a world steadily pushing back the frontiers of our knowledge of ancient peoples and ancient places. Though some readers might be tempted to begin with the third chapter (pp. 151-158) on "Principles of the Methodology of the Decipherment of Extinct Scripts and Languages," there is an obvious propriety in the author's recital of certain historical data in the earlier pages of the work.

Chapter i (pp. 1-101) sets forth "The Three Great Decipherments in the Study of the Ancient World." These are the interpretation of the Egyptian hieroglyphics, cuneiform writing, and the Hittite hieroglyphic writing. The author naturally repeats the familiar story of the Rosetta Stone, key to the decipherment of the Egyptian hieroglyphics (p. 31), though the reproduction of the stone (fig. 12, p. 19) is unfortunately somewhat inadequate. Laudably, the treatment in this chapter and in the book as a whole seems to be a compromise between a popular approach for the interested general reader and the provision of a convenient handbook for the specialist.

In chapter ii (pp. 102-150), on "The Decipherment and Study of Other Scripts and Languages of the Old World," attention is paid by Lycian, Lydian, the language of Side in Pamphylia, Numidian, the Cypriote script, the proto-Byblic script, Etruscan, Osco-Umbrian, and Phrygian. The final chapter (iv, pp. 159-173) deals with "A Few Examples of Undeciphered Scripts," including the Sinaitic script, Cretan-Minoan script, Carian script, and Indus Valley script: an Appendix (pp. 175-180), by way of correction, calls attention to the successful efforts of the late Michael Ventris in handling the Cretan Linear Script B.

Readers are likely to aver that the work as a whole is written rather dully; yet they will agree that it provides a profoundly revealing glimpse into the remote past and into the resourcefulness of the immediate present as current scholars turn to the difficult task of interpretation. For the signal triumphs of decipherment belong to the present century and that just preceding. There is, perhaps, a touch of petulance in the author's words (p. ix): "The decipherment of these old scripts and languages in the 19th and 20th centuries ranks with the most outstanding achievements of the human mind, and the only reason why it does not stand in the limelight of public interest as a co-equal of the radical triumphs of physics and technology and their related sciences is that it cannot produce the same effect on practical daily life which those discoveries can." Yet a careful appraisal of newspaper and popular journal coverage during the last quarter-century or so reveals a gratifyingly augmented attention to the discoveries of archaeology and linguistics, with the domain of "extinct languages" happily included.

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Books Received

Anton Baumstark, rev. by Bernard Botte, O.S.B.; English ed. by F. I. Cross, *Comparative Liturgy*. Westminster, Maryland, The Newman Press, 1958. Pp. xix, 249. $6.50.

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University of California Press (Berkeley and Los Angeles): F. E. Adcock, *The Greek and Macedonian Art of War. Sather Classical Lectures*, vol. 30, 1957. Pp. 109. $3.00. Mary Barnard, with Foreword by Dudley Fitts, *Sappho: A New Translation*. 1958. Pp. xiv, 114. Paperbound; $1.25. Rhys Carpenter, *Folk Tale, Fiction and Saga in the Homeric Epics*. 1958. Pp. 198. Paperbound; $1.50. Arthur E. Gordon, *Publius Valerius Messalla: Consul Suffect 29 B.C. (Publications in Classical Archaeology* 3 [1954] 31-64; plates 7-9). Fr. Frederic Pecchy, *Clareti Enigmata*: The Latin Riddles of Claret (*Folklore Studies*, vol. 7). 1957. Pp. 64., $1.25. W. Gerson Rabinowitz, *Aristotle's Protrepticus and the Sources of Its Reconstruction (Publications in Classical Philology* 16, no. 1, 1-96). 1957. Pp. 95. Paper-bound; $2.00.

I. Fernando Cruz, *La Cuestion Homerica*. Mendoza, Argentina, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, 1952. Pp. 84.

Harvard Studies in Classical Philology 62. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1957. Pp. 162. $5.00.

H. Hohensee, *The Augustinian Concept of Authority* (*Folia*, Supplement II). Worcester, Massachusetts, Holy Cross College, 1954. Pp. 79. $2.00.

Humanitas, vols. IV e V, Nova Série. Coimbra, Portugal, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Coimbra, 1955-1956. Pp. 362, lxxxvi.

Image Books (Garden City, New York, Doubleday): John A. O'Brien, ed., *The Road to Damascus: Spiritual Pilgrimage of Fifteen Converts to Catholicism*. 1955. Pp. 230. Paperbound; 65c. Michel de Saint-Pierre, trans. by Edward Fitzgerald, *Bernadette of Lourdes*. 1955. Pp. xiv, 266. Paperbound; 75c. Felix Timmermans, trans. by Raphael Brown, *The Perfect Joy of St. Francis*. 1955. Pp. 277. Paperbound; 75c.

Tönnes Kleberg, *Hôtels, restaurants et cabarets dans l'antiquité romaine: Études historiques et philologiques*. Uppsala, Almquist & Wiksells Boktryckeri, 1957. Pp. xi, 163; 21 figures. Paper-bound; 20 kronor.

John Francis Latimer, *What's Happened to Our High Schools?* Washington, D. C., Public Affairs Press, 1958. Pp. vii, 196. $3.25.

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William G. McCollom, *Tragedy*. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1957. Pp. ix, 254. $5.00.

Christine Mohrman, *Liturgical Latin: Its Origins and Character*. Washington, The Catholic University of America Press, 1957. Pp. 95. $2.50.

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Franz Wiesthaler, *Die Oratio Obliqua als künstlerisches Stilmittel in den Reden Ciceros* (*Commentationes Aenipontanae*, vol. 12). Innsbruck, Universitätsverlag Wagner, 1956. Pp. 115.

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